

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 9, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. April 9th, 1892. My darling Alec:

It's pretty hard work having part of my heart in America and the other in Europe. I started out this afternoon with a cable already written in which I said I would sail on the 16th, and let the children follow on the 4th May, but when I got down to the office my heart failed me, and I couldn't send it. If I knew you were ill and really needing me I would go, but I do not know that you are, and it is so dreadful to put the ocean between me and the children. I am sure they will be all right with Miss Clark and I have no hesitation in going to Paris and leaving them, it is the putting the ocean between us that troubles me, just after Elsie has been so sick too. Elsie does not seem at all weak. Unfortunately the doctor came this morning just as she was finishing dressing for the first time, and of course she looked tired, and then he treated her throat and she looked still more tired and languid, and the doctor declared you could see she had been very ill. Well she certainly does not look so this evening, nor feel so, I am certain, she is walking quickly and vigorously all around the room playing the piano and writing at the table. I have put her to bed and she is not a bit sleepy or tired, and I know how impossible it would have been for me to act as she has been doing today after my illness last spring. I am so glad you approve of my keeping Mr. McCurdy. As it happens he might as well have returned when you expected, but I could not tell that, and so long as the diphtheria continued there was always danger, she was in bed one day short of three weeks.

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Both children want to stay and are perfectly happy with Miss Clark to whom they are devoted, and who has been more kind than I can say. I am going to Paris Monday with

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Charles in attendance to get something to go home in. I have nothing to wear and can bear of no good dressmaker here. Miss Clark will sleep in Elsie's room and Daisy in Miss Fanny's, so they will both be well looked after. The doctor advises our waiting until the 4th of May, but admits that it is not absolutely necessary. I would feel bound to stay except on your account, but I cannot stay away from you any longer, I am sure you need me much more than the children do, yet I cannot make up my mind to leave them, so we must all go. I will try and get one more interview with the Dr. tomorrow but it is almost impossible to get any satisfaction out of him he is always racing with time.

Mrs. Burton's friend says she is growing steadily weaker, there is some trouble about her children's governess, and that worries her. She thinks Mrs. Burton ought to have some one to shield her from every care.

It is perfectly lovely here, I regret leaving Florence with all my heart, but my first idea is to be with you.

Lovingly always, Mabel.